

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 05294 270839Z
ACTION NEA-10

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UNCLAS TUNIS 5294

E9O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTIO, ELTN, TS
SUBJ: EARLY WARNING: CONSTRUCTION OF GAFSA-GABES RAILWAY.

REF: 10 FAM 164

1. SOCIETE NATIONALE DES CHEMINS DE FER TUNISIENS (SNCFT) WILL ISSUE INTERNATIONAL TENDER FOR CONTRUCTION OF 129 KILOMETERS OF STANDARD GAGE RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN GAFSA, WHERE LARGEST PHOSPHATE DEPOSITS IN TUNISIA ARE LOCATED, AND GABES PORT WHERE PHOSPHATE IS PROCESSED AND EXPORTED.
2. FEASIBILITY STUDY COMPLETED BY SNCFT, WHICH HAD ALREADY MARKED OUT 50 KILOMETERS.
3. PROJECT INCLUDED IN FIFTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN (1977-81), ESTIMATED AT 21 MILLION TUNISIAN DINARS (1TD EQUALS \$2.42) INCLUDING 15 MILLION MILLION WORTH OF EQUIPMENT TO BE IMPORTED. FINANCING SOUGHT. CIVIL ENGINEERING, GROUND LEVELING, ETC TO BE DONE BY LOCAL CONTRACTORS. TENDER DOCUMENTS WILL BE ISSUED BEFORE END 1978. COMMENT: CONSTRUCTION OF NEW DIRECT GAFSA TO GABES RAILWAY LINE IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SOUTHERN TUNISIA'S ECONOMY AS PRODUCTION OF PHOSPHATE EXPECTED TO REACH 7 MILLION TONS/YEAR IN 1981 WHEN LINE TO BE OPERATIONAL.

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(PRESENT SHIPMENTS TO GABES, CENTER FOR PROCESSED FERTILIZER INDUSTRY, ARE VIA WESTERN PORTION OF STANDARD GAGE LINE LINKING GAFSA TO SFAX, THEN SOUTH FROM GHRAIBA TO GABES VIA SPUR LINE.)
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

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